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ABSTRACT

Part of a curriculum unit on preventing sexual abuse of persons with disabilities, the manual is intended to help instructors present the material to hearing impaired students. Illustrations of sign language are presented for such terms as sexual contact, sexual assault, incest, same sex assault (man/woman), rape (acquaintance/marital), exposer, obscene phone call, offenders, genitals, victims, vulnerable, myth, felony, prosecute, and venereal disease. The terms are offered as suggestions to explain vocabulary in the sexual abuse curriculum. (CL)

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# A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SIGNS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

A Supplement to
Preventing Sexual Abuse of
Persons with Disabilities:
A Curriculum for Hearing Impaired,
Physically Disabled, Blind
and Mentally Retarded Students.

EC 191721

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# A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SIGNS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

A Supplement to:

*Preventing Sexual Abuse of Persons with Disabilities:*
*A Curriculum for Hearing Impaired, Physically Disabled,*
*Blind and Mentally Retarded Students*

Coordinated by:

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Sponsored by:

Minnesota Program for Victims of Sexual Assault

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## INTRODUCTION

Because the issue of sexual abuse of hearing impaired persons has been considered only recently, standard signs for sexual assault vocabulary have not been developed. During the piloting of the *Preventing Sexual Abuse of Persons with Disabilities* curriculum with hearing impaired students, it became evident that a booklet of suggested signs would assist instructors in presenting this material. Thus, this booklet contains suggested signs for the vocabulary words presented on page 150 of the curriculum.

There are a variety of alternatives which can be utilized in presenting these terms in sign language. The signs presented in this booklet are suggestions. Instructors may substitute their own alternatives or may solicit suggestions from their students. A variety of signs and examples can be utilized to explain the vocabulary to the students.

## SIGNED DESCRIPTIONS

After each vocabulary word is a written definition followed by photographs illustrating the signs and a written description of each sign for formation. Descriptions contain the following information in the following order:

Hand shape (see sketches of hand shapes on page v)

For right hand: See dash (-)

For left hand: See plus sign (+)

For both hands: See plus sign and dash (±)

Palm position

Up, down, right, left, toward body

Movement

See asterisk (*)

Repeat movement

More than one movement

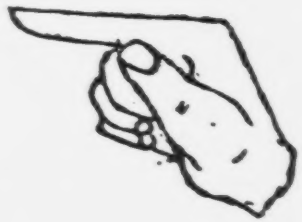
Descriptions should be read in conjunction with viewing the photographs.

Signed descriptions are written for right-handed signers, with the right hand dominant (doing most of the movement). Left-handed signers should reverse "right and left" descriptions.

## HAND SHAPES

CLOSED hand

RIGHT-ANGLE hand



RIGHT-ANGLE-INDEX hand

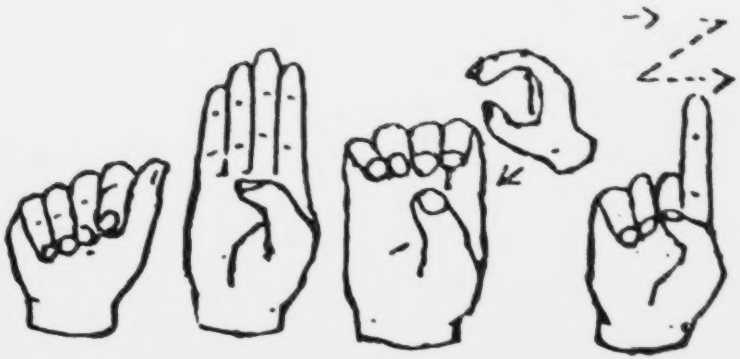
TOUCH hand

"5" hand

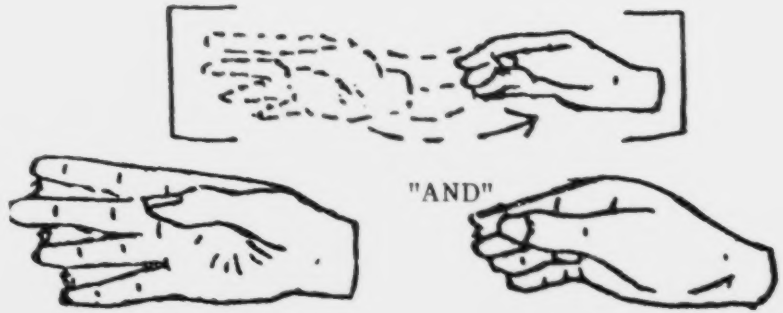
INDEX or "1" hand

CLAWED hand

CUPPED hand



"A - Z" hands




OPEN-AND hand

CLOSED-AND hand

SEXUAL CONTACT

Touching between two people. This can include hugging, kissing, touching of genitals and breasts, and intercourse. When both people want it to happen it feels good, but when one person doesn't want it to happen it does not feel good. It is sexual assault (also called sexual touching).

1) SEX
- Right "X" hand, palm facing out
* "X" touches right temple, then right side of chin

2) CONTACT/TOUCH
+ Both "TOUCH" hands, palms facing each
− other
* Middle fingertips touch each other

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Forcing or tricking a person into sexual touching when she or he doesn't want it to happen (also called sexual abuse). There are many kinds of sexual assault.

1) SEX
- Right "X" hand, palm facing out
* "X" touches right temple, then right side of chin

2) HIT/ABUSE/ASSAULT
- Right "S" hand, palm left
+ Left "1" hand, palm right
* Move "S" down and hit "1" as if hitting a person - repeat

CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT

Forcing or tricking a child into sexual touching.

1) KID/CHILD
   - Right "1 - I" hand, palm down
   * "1" touches under nose, shake hand with finger still under nose

2) SEX
   - Right "X" hand, palm facing out
   * "X" touches right temple, then right side of chin

3) HIT/ABUSE/ASSAULT.
   - Right "S" hand, palm left
   + Left "1" hand, palm right
   * Move "S" down and hit "1" as if hitting a person - repeat

INCEST

Sexual touching between family members. It can be between people of the opposite sex or the same sex. The offender is usually a close relative, such as a parent, grandparent or sibling.

1) FAMILY
+ Both "F" hands, palms down, closed fingers touching
− 
* Move down in semi-circle for each hand ending with little fingers touching, palms up

2) PLAY
± Both "Y" hands, palms facing each other
* Shake "Y"s

3) INTERCOURSE
+ Both "V" hands, right palm down, right
− hand over left, left palm up
* Move right hand up and down, tapping heels of hands together - repeat

4) HIT/ABUSE/ASSAULT
- Right "S" hand, palm left
+ Left "1" hand, palm right
* Move "S" down and hit "1" as if hitting a person - repeat

SAME SEX
ASSAULT (MAN)

When a man assaults a man.

1) MAN
- Right "5" hand, palm left, thumb touching forehead
* Move "5" down so that thumb touches chest

2) FORCE
- Right "C" hand, palm left or out
+ Left "CLOSED" hand, palm down
* Right wrist rests on back of left hand, then crosses over left hand ending with palm of "C" down

3) INTERCOURSE
+ Both "V" hands, right palm down, right
− hand over left, left palm up
* Move right hand up and down, tapping heels of hands together - repeat

4) MAN
- Right "5" hand, palm left, thumb touching forehead
* Move "5" down so that thumb touches chest

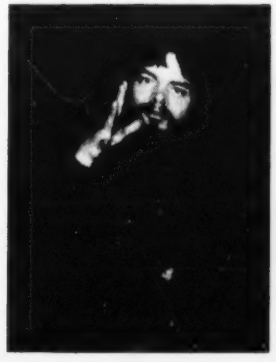
SAME SEX
ASSAULT (WOMAN)

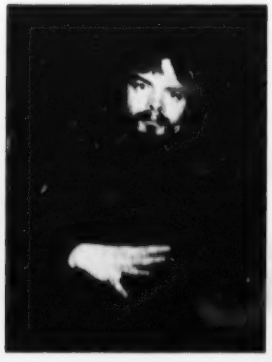
When a woman assaults a woman.

1) WOMAN
- Right "5" hand, palm left, thumb touching chin
* Move "5" down so that thumb touches chest

2) FORCE
- Right "C" hand, palm left or out
+ Left "CLOSED" hand, palm down
* Right wrist rests on back of left hand, then crosses over left hand ending with palm of "C" down

3) INTERCOURSE
+ Both "V" hands, right palm down, right
− hand over left, left palm up
* Move right hand up and down, tapping heels of hands together - repeat





4) WOMAN
- Right "5" hand, palm left, thumb touching chin
* Move "5" down so that thumb touches chest

RAPE

When one person forces another person into sexual touching against his/her will. Often a weapon is used.

1) RAPE
   + Both "CLAWED" hands, palms down, right
   − arm crossed over left arm
   * Uncross arms ending with "S" hands

OR

1) FORCE
   - Right "C" hand, palm left or out
   + Left "CLOSED" hand, palm down
   * Right wrist rests on back of left hand, then crosses over left hand ending with palm of "C" down

2) INTERCOURSE
   + Both "V" hands, right palm down, right
   − hand over left, left palm up
   * Move right hand up and down, tapping heels of hands together - repeat

ACQUAINTANCE RAPE

When a person is raped by someone they know, such as a friend, neighbor or classmate.

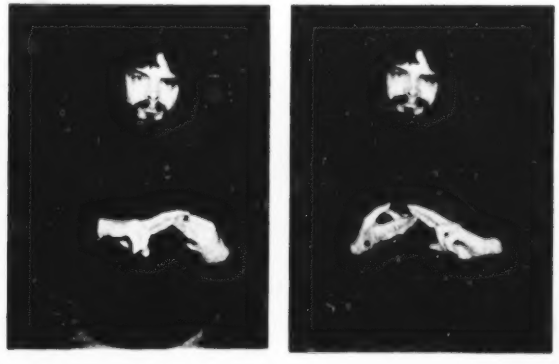
1) FORCE
- Right "C" hand, palm left or out
+ Left "CLOSED" hand, palm down
* Right wrist rests on back of left hand, then crosses over left hand ending with palm of "C" down

2) INTERCOURSE
+ Both "V" hands, right palm down, right hand over left, left palm up
− 
* Move right hand up and down, tapping heels of hands together -repeat

3) KNOW
- Right "RIGHT-ANGLE" hand, palm down
* Fingertips touch right temple - repeat

4) WHO
- Right "1" hand, palm facing body, index finger close by mouth
* Move "1" around mouth - repeat

5) FRIEND
+ Both "X" hands, right palm down, left palm up
− 
* Hook "X"s, then change positions - right palm up, left palm down -repeat for FRIENDS

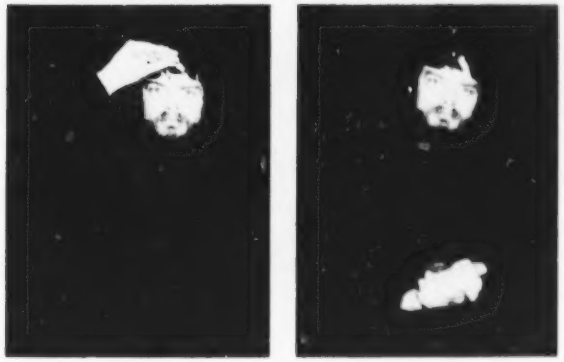


6) RELATIVE
+ Both "R" hands, right palm down, left palm up
− 
* Cross "R"s, then change position - right palm up, left palm down -repeat for RELATIVES

MARITAL RAPE

When a husband forces his wife into sexual touching or a wife forces her husband into sexual touching.





1) HUSBAND (MAN-MARRY)
   - Right "CLOSED-AND" hand, palm down, index finger and thumb touching forehead
   * Move down ending with right "C" clasping left "C" hand

2) WIFE (FEMALE-MARRY)
   - Right "A" hand, palm left, thumb touching cheek
   * Move down ending with right "C" clasping left "C" hand

3) FORCE
   - Right "C" hand, palm left or out
   + Left "CLOSED" hand, palm down
   * Right wrist rests on back of left hand, then crosses over left hand ending with palm of "C" down

4) INTERCOURSE
   + Both "V" hands, right palm down, right
   − hand over left, left palm up
   * Move right hand up and down, tapping heels of hands together - repeat

5) WHICH
   + Both "A" hands, palms facing each other
   * Alternate moving "A"s up and down in the balancing motion

6) CHOICE/EITHER
   - Right "20" hand, palm facing out
   + Left "V" hand, palm facing body
   * Thumb and index finger of "20" "peck" first index fingertip, then middle fingertip of "V"

EXPOSER

Someone who shows their genitals to someone to shock or scare the person. Exposing is considered sexual assault even though it does not involve touching. Generally, the exposer is a man.

1) PERSON (SELF)
   + Both "P" hands, palms down, wrists touching chest
   * Move "P"s down to waist

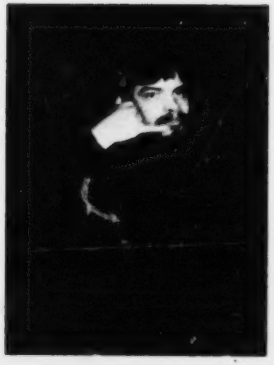
2) OPENING/TAKING OFF THE COAT
   + Both "A" hands, palms facing body with knuckles almost touching
   * Open arms as if opening the coat

3) NAKED/NUDE
   + Both "TOUCH" hands, palms facing body, middle fingers touching chest
   * Move hands down in sweeping motion

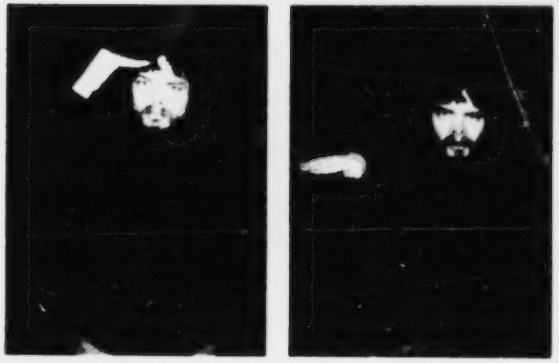
OBSCENE PHONE CALL

When someone calls and breathes into the phone, doesn't say anything or says things to scare you. The caller may talk about ways he wants to touch your body or ways he wants you to touch his body. The caller is usually a man, but it can be a woman. The person who gets the call doesn't know who is calling. The purpose of the call is to scare the person.

1) STRANGE/ODD
   - Right "C" hand, palm left
   * Move by face in semi-circle ending with palm of "C" down



2) TELEPHONE
   - Right "Y" hand, palm back
   * Thumb touches ear and little finger touches mouth as if holding a telephone



3) DON'T KNOW
   - Right "RIGHT-ANGLE" hand, palm down fingertips touching right temple
   * Move down and outward ending with "CLOSED" hand, palm down

4) WHO
   - Right "1" hand, palm facing body, index finger close by mouth
   * Circle "1" around mouth - repeat

5) REVENGE
   + Both "20" hands, knuckles bent, right palm
   − down, left palm up
   * Move hands sharply toward each other ending with fingertips and knuckles touching

**GENITALS**

PENIS

Area between the legs of males; the sex organ.

VAGINA

Area between the legs of females; the sex organ.

BREASTS

Located on the upper front part of the body of both males and females.

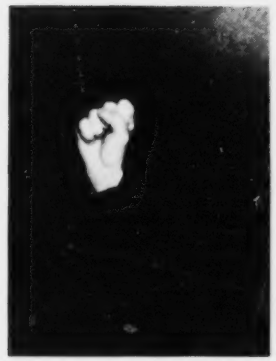
ANUS

The opening between the buttocks (also called rectum).

1) PENIS
   - Right "P" hand, palm facing body
   * Middle finger taps tip end of nose - repeat

1) VAGINA
   ± Both "L" hands, palms down
   * Thumbtips touch and indextips touch, forming a diamond - repeat

1) BREASTS
   ± Both "C" hands, palms up
   * Little fingers and edge of palms touch chest or breasts

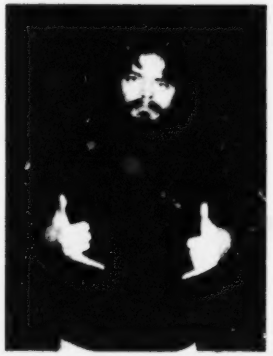


1) ANUS
   - Right "A" - "N" - "U" - "S" hand, palm out

OFFENDER

Someone who commits or does a crime. In this case, it is the person who sexually assaults or rapes someone. The person can also be called a rapist or assailant.

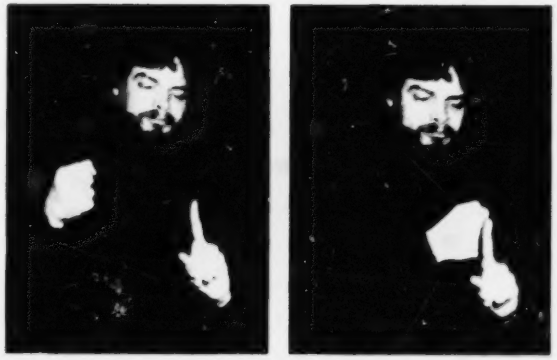
1) PERSON (OTHER)
   + Both "P" hands, palms down hands/arms away from body
   * Move "P"s down to "waist" as if there is a person before you



2) PLAY
   + Both "Y" hands, palms facing each other
   * Shake "Y"s

3) ADVANTAGE
   - Right "TOUCH" hand, palm down
   + Left "CLOSED" hand, palm up
   * Right middle finger touches left palm, then moves back toward body

4) INTERCOURSE
   + Both "V" hands, right palm down, right hand over left, left palm up
   * Move right hand up and down, tapping heels of hands together - repeat



5) HIT/ABUSE/ASSAULT
   - Right "S" hand, palm left
   + Left "1" hand, palm right
   * Move "S" down and hit "1" as if hitting a person - repeat

VICTIM

The person who is hurt by the crime; the person who is the object of the crime. In this case, it is the person who is sexually assaulted.

1) PERSON (SELF)
   + Both "P" hands, palms down, wrists touching chest
   * Move "P"s down to waist

2) HIT-ME
   - Right "S" hand, palm facing body
   + Left "1" hand, palm facing out with back of hand by chest
   * Move "S" down and hit "1" as if hitting me or self

3) ME-HURT
   - Right "A" hand, palm left, thumb touching upper lip
   * Slide thumb down chin (that's for HURT)
   + Left "RIGHT-ANGLE-INDEX" hand, palm left, finger touches chest (that's for ME)

VULNERABLE

Open to physical injury or attack. Easily hurt. Vulnerable to sexual assault means that sexual assault can happen.

1) WEAK
- \- Right "5" hand, palm down
- \+ Left "CLOSED" hand, palm up
- * Fingers of right hand touch, wobble on palm of left hand like weak legs

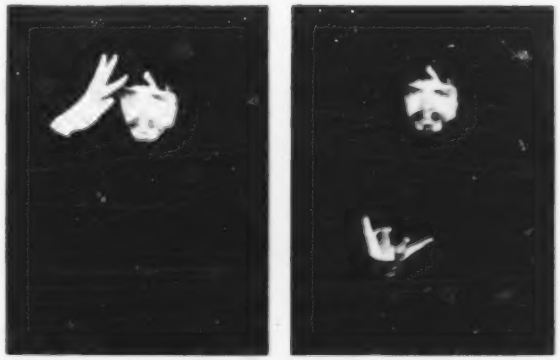
2) DEFEND/GUARD
- ± Both "S" hands, palms down
- * Arms cross in front of chest as if guarding with a "shield"

3) ADVANTAGE
- \- Right "TOUCH" hand, palm down
- \+ Left "CLOSED" hand, palm up
- * Right middle finger touches left palm, then moves back toward body

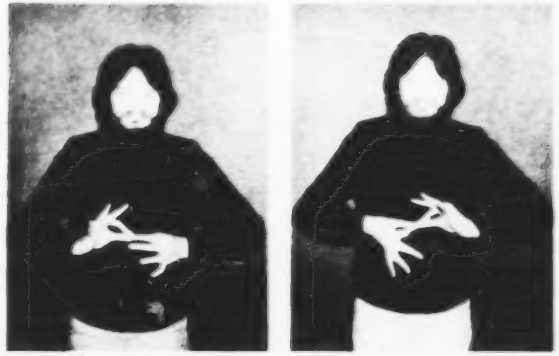
MYTH

Mistaken or wrong ideas believed by many people to be true.

1) WRONG/MISTAKE
   - Right "Y" hand, palm facing body
   * Move "Y" toward chin ending with three middle fingers touching chin



2) RIDICULOUS
   - Right "4" hand, palm left, index fingertip touching right temple
   * Move "4" in an arc up then down so that hand is in front of body



3) STORY
   + Both "F" hands, right palm out, left palm
   − facing body
   * Thumbs and index fingers open and close as "F"s are moved toward, then away from each other; wrists turn so that right palm faces body and left palm out - repeat for STORIES

FELONY

A major crime such as murder or rape.

1) BAD
   - Right "B" hand, palm facing body
   + Left "CLOSED" hand, palm up
   * Right fingers touch lips, then move down until palm of right "B" touches left palm

2) PUNISH/PENALTY
   - Right "1" hand, palm left
   + Left "S" hand, palm down
   * Left hand before right shoulder with right "1" in front of "S"; move "1" down by arm of "S" hitting elbow

3) JAIL/PRISON
   ± Both "5" hands, palms facing face, left hand close to face and right hand few inches away from left hand
   * Move right "5" toward left "5" so that right palm touches back of left hand

PROSECUTE

To take court action against (to prosecute the offender).

1) SUE
   + Both "CLOSED" hands, right palm facing
   − body and left palm facing right, right hand by right side of chest and left hand by left side
   * Move right hand toward left hand until right fingertips touch palm of left hand

2) GO-TO
   + Both "1" hands, palms out, fingertips up,
   − right hand by chest and left hand by left shoulder
   * Move fingers forward and downward until palms face down

3) COURT
   ± Both "F" hands, palms facing each other
   * Alternate moving "F"s up and down in the balancing motion

ASSERTIVE

A positive or confident way of acting; self confident; sure of yourself. Thinking, speaking or acting on your own thoughts, feelings or desires, taking into account the wishes and feelings of others.

1) ASSERTIVE (BRAVE-CHALLENGE)
   + Both "5" hands, palms back, fingers bent
   – touching both shoulders
   * Move hands forward and in arc ending with "A" hands, palms facing body, backs of fingers touching

VENEREAL DISEASE (VD)

An infection you can get by having sexual intercourse with someone who already has VD. Examples of VD are syphilis and gonorrhea.

1) VENEREAL DISEASE (VD)
   - Right "V" - "D" hand, palm out

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